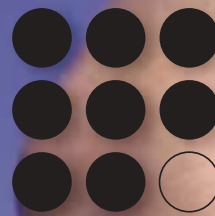


GO



south east

Government Office for the South East
Partners' newsletter for the region

TOP REGION

CPA brings good news for the South East

MISSION POSSIBLE

Launch of regional plan for sport

GO



south east

Government Office for the South East
Partners' newsletter for the region

Aims & objectives:

GOSE works with regional partners and local people to deliver the Government's policy and programmes in the region. GOSE develops policy, manages relationships and helps the ten departments it represents deliver their programmes.

Contact

We would also like to receive articles from other bodies. If you would like to have an article (max 600 words) considered for inclusion, please contact Lesley Devonport, tel: 01483 882454 or e-mail: ldevonport.gose@go-regions.gov.uk

GOSE reserves the right to edit articles.

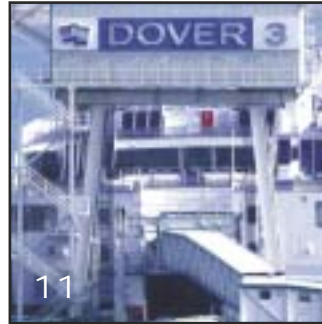
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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Previous issues

To view previous issues of 'GO south east', please visit our website at: www.go-se.gov.uk/key business/publications/publications.html





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Message:
Thoughts from Paul Martin on how public services are changing and what this means for GOSE.



PARTNERS' MESSAGE

PAUL MARTIN
Regional Director



We need to envisage a future which is about personal choice in public services.

In recent months, it has been difficult to read a newspaper which doesn't refer to the potential for reducing bureaucracy and slimming down the civil service. The Government commissioned Sir Peter Gershon to carry out an efficiency review which has now reported to Cabinet and is in the process of being implemented.

This review will have an impact upon Government Offices, as it will across Whitehall. The Government Office network consists of nine regional offices in each of the English regions and a corporate headquarters, the Regional Co-ordination Unit, in London. Our initial work is concentrating on making savings to "back office" functions – HR, IT, finance – where we believe there is scope for rationalisation and better ways of working. We need to learn from the experience of many organisations in both the private and public sectors which have already implemented change and efficiencies in a similar way.

At the same time, Government Offices are reviewing their strategy. This must be fundamentally linked to greater efficiency: all organisations need to be crystal clear on their strategy and future, and this is especially true of multi-service organisations such as Government Offices. We need to envisage a future which is about personal choice in public services, devolution to the front line and delivery of higher standards – and ensure we are able to support progress in all three. Coherence across public services and programmes is essential for an efficient public sector – and the scope for getting more bangs for the taxpayer's buck must be huge. ■

News briefs:

A selection of brief reports from across the region.

REACHINGOUT

The UK online network, established by GOSE and now managed by Ufi, is leading on a national e-government pilot, aimed at identifying ways of helping more people to engage with online services delivered by government departments.

UK online was chosen because it has centres in the most deprived wards across the region and they have a proven track record in successfully working within hard to reach communities.

Enhancing UK online centres' role in e-delivery will directly support Departments' efforts to meet the Prime Minister's target for Electronic Service Delivery by Government: 100% capability by 2005 with key services achieving high levels of use. In particular, centres offer increased access and take-up by disadvantaged groups.

However, there are a range of much broader strategic benefits too. People already learning about how to get online would be encouraged



Once research findings are established, UK online centres aim to become prime delivery partners.



to move on to accessing Government services and may also choose to take up other online learning opportunities.

The Blitz Centre (Blackbird Leys IT Zone) in Oxford is piloting services for people of a working age, working with Job Centre Plus and the Inland Revenue. Key services include Child Tax Credit Renewals, Care Allowance Information and benefits calculation. Beneficiaries will increase their awareness of how online services can support them locally and also help to identify ways of moving back into employment through learning opportunities.

In Brighton and Hove, two centres are working with NHS Direct and DfES on a family e-learning project, aimed at improving parenting skills and also finding ways of attracting parents back to education through their children. Other national pilots include working with older people, micro businesses, rural services and the online government store.

Once research findings are established, UK online centres aim to become prime delivery partners, working with both national Departments and local Councils to increase usage and to ensure that the services are cost effective. We are confident that with appropriate funding structures, UK online will be in a position to make a significant contribution to the Electronic Service Delivery Targets. ■



Further information

Sarah Bridges, Widening Participation Manager, Ufi South East. tel:07717 516279 e-mail: sbridges@ufi.com

TREADING THE BOARDS

What motivates business people to sit on boards? How can Government tap into their knowledge more effectively? How do we attract more business people to sit on Boards in the future? These were a few of the questions posed at an event organised by GOSE for business people who are members of Public Sector Boards.

GOSE's Regional Director, Paul Martin, chaired the event, which was attended by members of the Health, Tourism, Police, Skills and Economic Development sectors.

The keynote speech from Sir Robin Young, Permanent Secretary at DTI focused on why he believes it is important for Government to engage with Business. In Sir Robin's opening statement he remarked " as an ex

Regional Director, I am aware of the need to back our successful regions as well as attacking the problems of the less successful". Whilst discussing the process of senior secondments, he continued, "I am aiming to produce a department that understands business and learns how to speak and think like business". All senior DTI staff are required to undertake a one week secondment each year to business

Stimulating discussions contributed to the success of this event and the response from

GROWING SOCIETY



A Consultation process is underway in the South East asking for help from Forestry Commission Stakeholders and the general public to develop a 'forestry framework' for the region which aims to get trees, woodlands and forestry doing more for diverse areas of regional life – from health to urban renaissance, from biodiversity to rural economies. ■



Further information

Entitled 'Seeing the Wood for the Trees', the consultation document is available from: www.see-in.co.uk/RegionalStrategies/ProposalsandConsultations or from The Forestry Framework Steering Group, c/o The Forestry Commission, Alice Holt, Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4LF.

delegates feedback highlight the interest in future events. The outcome has also seen a commitment from the Regional Public Sector Body members to become involved in future business-orientated events organised by GOSE. ■



Further information

For further information please contact Faith Charnock-Wilson on 01483 882540.

BELOW: Sir Robin Young giving his keynote speech.



ECORIDE

One of the world's first hydrogen powered buses visited Guildford at the end of February. Taking a holiday from its usual No.25 route between Oxford Circus and Ilford in East London, the bus gave rides to BOC employees at the Surrey Research Park, and other guests from around the region.

Looking just like a regular bus, apart from a deeper roof-space where the hydrogen tanks and fuel cells are found, the bus is much more efficient than its diesel powered colleagues. The only emissions are steam, not the health and environment harming emissions from burning

fossil fuels. Those riding the bus found it much quieter, too.

Eight other cities across the globe are taking part in the zero-emission bus trial, but it may be a while before we see another one in Guildford – each prototype vehicle cost over £1million! ■



Further information

For more information please contact Louise Whall on 01483 882896 or by email: lwhall.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk



ABOVE: The hydrogen powered bus visiting Guildford.

SCHOOL'S IN!

...a real impact will be made on raising pupils' levels of attendance and attainment, and improving their life chances.

GOSE's ability to get things moving was shown recently when we brought together a group of practitioners and their senior managers from a wide range of organisations and agencies to discuss what needs to be done about school attendance rates.

On 25th and 26th March, Oak Farm Community School in Farnborough joined forces with the Department for Education and Skills, Government Office for the South East, and Hampshire County Council to hold a pioneering event focusing on the link between pupils' attendance at school, academic achievement and the impact of these on the local community.

The conference was the first of its kind in the South East, and looked critically at how key partners within and outside the school can work more effectively together to help ensure that all children and young people are able to gain access to appropriate schooling. It is hoped that through multi-agency working to support the school, its pupils and their families, a real impact will be made on raising pupils' levels of attendance and attainment, and improving their life chances. ■



Further information

For further information please contact Kathy McTaggart on 01483 882398 or by email: kmctaggart.gose@government.gov.uk



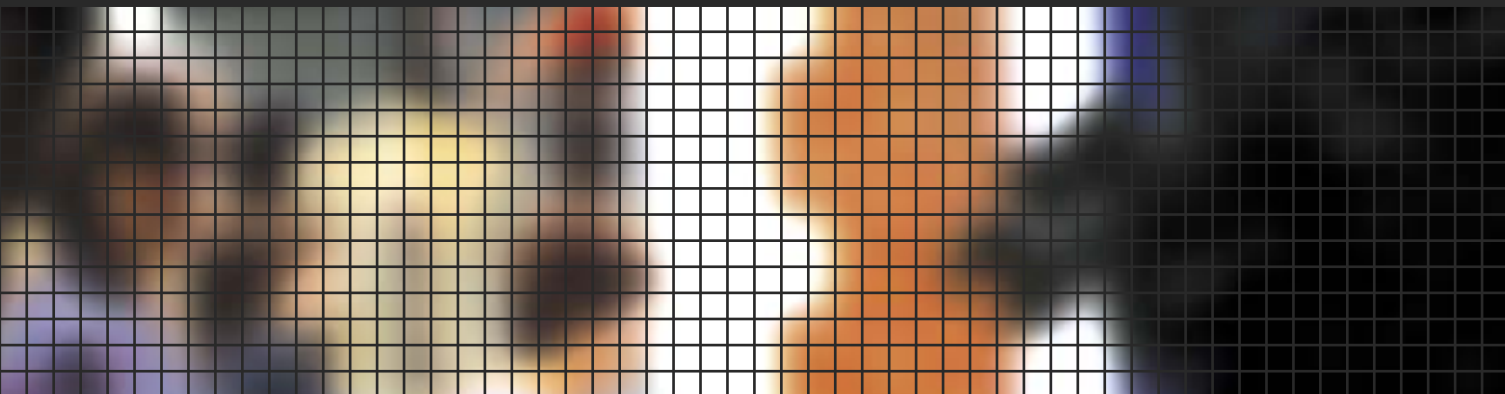
SURPRISE VISIT



On 18 March, the day after the budget, the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer sprung a surprise visit to a Milton Keynes school. Walton High is judged to be one of the top 50 performers in the country. It has a strong business focus and whilst there the PM and Chancellor met some sixth-form entrepreneurs.



ABOVE: Tony Blair talking to pupils in the school cafeteria.



ABOVE: The PM and Chancellor sit on the board of Maestro Industries.

The PM and Chancellor joined the board of a mock company called 'Maestro Industries at Walton High School' and the students explained how they had netted £900 profit since setting up the company last year. In his budget, the Chancellor promised to create a thousand more specialist schools like Walton High. ■

ABOVE: Gordon Brown meeting a few of the pupils.



ONLINE RENEWAL

April saw the Launch, by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, of a new web based system called Floor Targets Interactive.

What is Floor Targets Interactive?

This is an interactive tool making data on performance and regeneration progress easily accessible. This new tool will enable all those involved in neighbourhood renewal to identify priority areas, monitor progress and compare them with others. The data included in this tool covers all English authorities down to district levels, but one of its main focuses is on the 88 local authorities that receive Neighbourhood Renewal Funding. Although this data is already publicly available, bringing it together in one place will not only improve accessibility to the user but will also provide a mapping tool so that users can create visual aids. Data on the system will be updated every three to four months. ■



Further information

The database can be found on www.neighbourhood.gov.uk. For further information or if you would like to feedback any comments, please contact: FTI@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

Case study:

With a need for improved community transport on the Isle of Wight, GO south east outlines how this is being met with European funding.

MONEY WELL SPENT

**Background:**

GOSE and SEEDA have joined forces to produce a publication illustrating the use of European Funding in South East England. The publication contains short summaries of each of the EU funded programmes and contains some interesting case studies that give a real flavour of what is being done.

Name:	Wight Community Transport
Organisation:	Isle of Wight Rural Community Council
Project value:	£124,908
Total grant:	£23,430

The aim of this project is to improve the quality and extent of provision of community transport services across the Isle of Wight. Community transport on the island is provided by a number of organisations, mostly small groups responding to local needs. Co-ordination between groups offering services is limited, and for a potential user there is no clear way to establish what services are available and how to access them. There is evidence of an unmet need for community transport facilities, and a desire among some organisations to expand the services on offer.

This project establishes a community transport organisation to co-ordinate existing provision, operate the voluntary car scheme and provide training. It will also investigate the possibility and desirability of acquiring minibuses for community use and develop a one stop community transport information line, allowing people to access information and booking facilities for community transport providers through one telephone number.

There is a comprehensive list of all projects part funded by the EU between 2000 and 2003 included in the document. ■

**Further information**

Copies of the document, called 'European Funding for South East England 2000-2003', are now available. For a copy or for further information please contact Hannah Bussey on 01483 882 882 or e-mail at hbussey.gose@go-regions.gov.uk

Focus:

Mark Billsborough, GOSE's Director for Kent, takes a look at a plan to secure Dover's future long term prosperity.

11

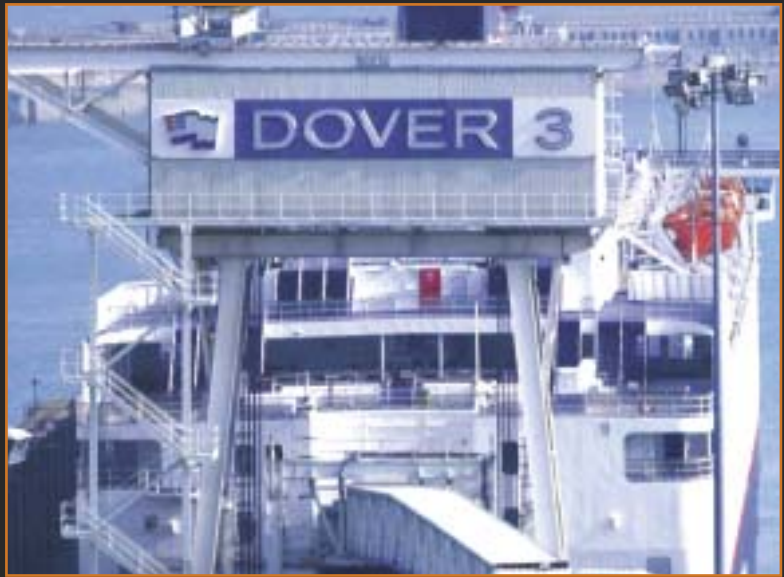
DELIVERING DOVER'S FUTURE**DOVER
PRIDE**

A far-reaching plan to revitalise Dover is being developed by a group of local leaders together with SEEDA and the Government Office. The Delivering Dover's Future project aims to create a 30-year development vision and identify the means to improve the town's long term prosperity. With its key strategic link as the most important ferry port connecting the UK with mainland Europe and its 21st century port facilities, Dover's success is pivotal to the economic success of the South East.

The port has traditionally been a plentiful source of employment and its steady expansion has been enormously beneficial to the area. But some recent cutbacks have emphasised that Dover's reliance on one industry makes it extremely vulnerable to adverse economic circumstances. And with Dover in direct competition with the Channel Tunnel and other ports for both passenger and freight travel, Dover leaders have taken the view that the success of the town needs to be much more broadly based if it is to be secure in its prosperity and live up to its potential.

Dover's workforce is less skilled than the Kent and South East average and unemployment and inactivity rates for the working age population are higher than the regional average. The housing stock is, in general, old and decaying and a number of the Wards in the area are amongst the most deprived nationally. Outside Dover Town itself the District is largely rural, but contains the former Kent coalfield. This mix means that the economy of the area is extremely fragile.

Delivering Dover's Future aims to change all that. The primary ingredient for successful regeneration is enthusiasm, and Dover certainly has that. The second is a sensible business plan, which the new strategy will provide. The third is opportunity, which is certainly there. The port



The port has traditionally been a plentiful source of employment and its steady expansion has been enormously beneficial to the area.

can expand further, there is land available for business expansion and the strong transport links make the area attractive for companies at home and abroad. CTRL domestic, now just around the corner, will slash journey times to central London.

The problem for Dover, though, is that other areas may be strategically bettered placed to take up investment opportunities. Ashford and the Thames Gateway will see investment over the next few decades, which Dover will find it difficult to match. And regeneration is a long-term game – typically Government programmes have taken a very long-term timescale (seven years for City Challenge, 10 years for New Deal for Communities) and then been criticised for not being long term enough. As the old coalfields of Tilmanstone, Betteshanger and Snowdown graphically demonstrate, proper regeneration takes generations.

But for the 100,000 people who live in or around Dover it is very important that these problems are overcome. The signs are encouraging. Dover's tradition and place in history suggests instilling a sense of pride in Dover should be relatively straightforward. But key strategic players need to focus on the area as well. Education, social inclusion, health and housing issues are easy to spot in Dover but difficult to solve and the Government Office will be increasingly focusing on issues of priority towns in the Region to see if these problems can be tackled more effectively. We aim to help Dover with its ambitious plans and will report back from time to time on its successes. ■



ABOVE: Outside Dover Town itself the District is largely rural, but contains the former Kent Coalfields.



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE SOUTH EAST

LOOKING AHEAD

SOUTH EAST PRIORITIES IN 2004-5

Each year GOSE identifies a number of priorities toward which we direct our attention. These priorities reflect the PSA targets of our 10 sponsor departments and the needs of the region as set out in documents such as the Regional Economic Strategy, the Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action and the Regional Housing and Transport Strategies. GOSE's priorities for 2004-5 are

- Reducing inequalities and improving the economic, social and health status of everyone in the South East
- Protecting the landscape and improving the environment
- Promoting sustainable growth
- Improving access to affordable and high quality housing
- Creating a safe, just and tolerant region
- Supporting effective multi-agency delivery of better outcomes for children, young people and families
- Ensuring the South East has a healthy labour market
- Improving the transport and communications infrastructure
- Promoting and fostering resilient communities
- Improving capacity and capability in local government and in partnership working in the South East

GO South East will carry features and news items about each of these priorities during the next twelve months, starting with a feature on Top Region – CPA brings good news for the South East, in this issue.

Viewpoint:

Neil Couling, South East Regional Director of Jobcentre Plus, provides an insight into the work of the organisation and some of the challenges faced.

POSITIVEWORKING



Nationally we carry over 1/2 million vacancies each week.

When I was invited to contribute to "Viewpoint" I spent some time reflecting on the thoughts I would like to share with you about our achievements and aims for the future. Let me start by telling you a bit about my role.

In June 2003 I became Director of Jobcentre Plus in the South East Region. I head an organisation of 7,000 staff based on 140 sites that helps the 8 million strong population in the region find work, and pay benefits.

Jobcentre Plus exists to help as many as possible of Britain's 5 million economically inactive find work and employers fill their vacancies. Nationally we carry over 1/2 million vacancies each week accessible through a network of high street offices in major towns and cities, via our dedicated telephone service Jobseeker Direct and the internet. We provide a free service to employers of all sizes and can offer additional help with interviewing and sifting prospective employees.

The South East has one of the most dynamic regional economies in the United Kingdom and its efficient labour market is key to this strong economic performance. Regionally the employment rate (the percentage of working age adults in work) stands at 79.3% one of the best in the UK and European Union. If the

Region is to continue to grow in the years ahead then the labour market will continue to need to flourish. So we have a key part to play in the continued prosperity of the South East's economy, the success of local businesses and in the reduction in poverty.

Despite this underlying strength there remain in the South East people who are excluded from the opportunities offered by employment. Although the South East enjoys this strong economy the picture varies considerably throughout the region with unemployment rates varying from 1% to 9%. There are also notable skills gaps between the requirements of employers and the skills of many of our unemployed customers. The Government has set ambitious targets for reducing poverty. Expanding the number of people in the South East in work will contribute to reducing poverty.

We have 286,624 customers in receipt of working age benefits. Of these 69,960 are unemployed, 99,710 are considered incapable of work through illness or disability and 91,000 are lone parents. To help these customers we run a series of programmes giving whatever support is needed to help them into work such



as CV writing, interview technique, confidence building and job search skills. Some customers cannot access our mainstream services because of severe disadvantage in the labour market such as ex-offenders, asylum seekers, drug and alcohol abusers. We are co-financing 44 projects with the European Social Fund providing £14 million of extra help to ease these customers back into society and eventually into work.

We cannot work alone. We rely on close and productive working relationships with a range of partners such as GOSE, SEEDA, Learning and Skills Councils and Local Authorities. I am proud of the various partnership initiatives we have in the South East such as the shining example of the Redundancy Support Service where we work with SEEDA to help people who have suffered from redundancy. For example when we were alerted, by the Investor Development Manager from SEEDA, that P&O Ferries Limited in Kent were making 525 workers redundant we worked with 15 partner organisations to set up a support room in Dover offering a full range of services from help with job search, benefit and welfare rights advice and guidance through to retraining opportunities. This venture was so successful that out of the 525 redundancies made in December only 12 are still in receipt of benefits. We have assisted 96 other employers facing redundancies since the team started in September 2003. Indeed since our move of Regional Office to Ranger House in Guildford we now also share a close proximity with GOSE, being neighbours as well as partners.

I think one of the most noticeable changes in Jobcentre Plus has been the introduction of refurbished offices offering a fully integrated, modern service to the public, dealing with job search and benefit applications at the same time, linking work with welfare. We have a programme for converting our Districts, which started in 2002 and continues until 2006. With 6 out of 7 counties nearly completed (Kent next year) the South East is ahead of the rest of Great Britain.

Although we offer some services as standard each District has to focus on meeting the needs

I am proud of the various partnership initiatives we have in the South East.



of the communities they serve so there are interesting initiatives in each county. In Berkshire we are launching a Progress2work partnership with Thames Valley Offenders Employment Group, which is a training programme that starts whilst the customer is in prison helping them secure employment before their release. In Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire we are co-financing eight European Social Fund (ESF) projects targeted at customers over 50yrs of age, lone parents and Incapacity Benefit Customers. Hampshire & Isle of Wight has 10 ESF projects and Joint Improvement Plans in place providing help for customers with disabilities and a new outreach service at Moorgreen Hospital to inform patients in the pain relief clinic of the support available should they return to work. In Kent the Thanet Action Team for jobs has sponsored two early morning bus routes to resolve the problem of a lack of public transport opening up opportunities for people to work in the Canterbury area. The Focus to Work Trust has developed "Social Firms" to provide support for the long-term unemployed. One of our smaller customer bases is in Surrey where a new Progress2Work will help ex-drug abusers into work and two ESF contracts will cover the whole county. Sussex Progress2Work helped 236 people into work last year and a joint project with Age Concern is aimed at older workers. Through the joint initiative employers such as The Body Shop are now signed up to recruiting older workers.

I have really enjoyed the challenges that Jobcentre Plus has thrown at me since I took up post. In common with all public sector organisations we face stretching targets combined with the requirement to deliver our services more efficiently and to reduce our overheads. I feel confident that we will rise to these challenges as the commitment, support and sheer hard work of my staff across the Region will pay dividends.

I recently relocated to live in Hampshire, work in Surrey and send my children to school in Sussex, so on a personal level I am equally committed to the success of the South East Region!! ■

Spotlight:

Confirmation of the South East's high level of local governance and GOSE's commitment to continuing this success.

TOP REGION

CPA BRINGS GOOD NEWS FOR THE SOUTH EAST

Recent Audit Commission verdicts, under the system of Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), named the South East as the top region for local government performance. GOSE is committed to working with local authorities and other partners to help to maintain this achievement and support continuous local government improvement.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

By the autumn of 2004, all local authorities – county, unitary and district – will have undergone the comprehensive performance assessment process and been awarded a rating on the now familiar five point scale of 'poor', 'weak', 'fair', 'good' and 'excellent'. For county and unitary councils the process started in 2002 with a 'refresh' of the rating in December 2003. For their district council colleagues, the process started last year with councils being assessed on a rolling programme, county area by county area.

WHAT IS CPA?

CPA is about helping councils improve local services for their communities. It looks at how well councils deliver their services, for example education, social care, leisure and housing. It also considers how the council is run as this will impact on how well they deliver their services in the future.

The Audit Commission compiles CPA in partnership with local government, Ofsted, the Social Services Inspectorate, the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate, and the Government. It utilises a mixture of performance information and on-site inspection.

More information, including reports on each council, is available through the Audit Commission's web site www.audit-commission.gov.uk/cpa.







GOSE'S ROLE

GOSE plays a role at various stages during and after the CPA process. One component of the overall rating for county and unitary councils is drawn from the Government Office assessment of some statutory plans, for example Local Transport Plans and Housing Strategies. GOSE is consulted by the Audit Commission as an external stakeholder when their inspection team is preparing for the on-site visit. We also look after the Capacity Building Fund in the region. Once results are announced, we use the information to help inform our relationship with the council. We also aim to attend the improvement planning round tables convened by the Audit Commission to provide a government perspective where this is relevant. Finally, if any council in the region is rated 'poor', GOSE would lead government engagement in the council's recovery process. This would be through the ODPM Director for Local Government Practice (South East), John Haward, who is based with us.

HANDS ON SUPPORT

In addition, GOSE is helping to pilot an arrangement called 'voluntary engagement' for the ODPM. This aims to assess what roles government could and should play to support improvement in councils that have been rated as 'weak' or above. The main focus has been in developing a close relationship with Milton Keynes Council, as one of the eight pilot authorities nationally. These pilots have three main elements:

1. helping to broker and simplify Whitehall's relationship with the local authority
2. support and mutual learning between councils and between the council and Government
3. to provide an 'independent' challenge to improvement planning

Leading the work within GOSE has been a secondee from local government, Jenny Ashby, from Oxfordshire County Council. Jenny has been working closely with Milton Keynes Council on this basis since September 2003.

CASE STUDY: MILTON KEYNES

Geoff Snelson, Head of Policy and Communications, Milton Keynes Council, gives a view from Milton Keynes:

"The year 2002 provided Milton Keynes Council with lot to think about. An IDeA peer review in July 2002 identified shortcomings that were confirmed by a Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) rating of 'weak' in December that year.

The response of the council was not one of denial. We welcomed the analyses, which we recognised as accurate, and the opportunity they presented to move the organisation forward. The reclassification of the council as 'fair' in December 2003 is just the first step on our improvement journey.

Using the recommendations, we devised a programme for change and improvement – 'Changing MK'. From the outset we have sought to involve external partners strongly in ChangingMK. A team of IdeA peers was engaged to work alongside council officers and members during 2003, and the Audit Commission has supported work on reviewing and developing our human resources strategy.

The opportunity to work with GOSE on 'voluntary engagement' is proving interesting and valuable. Along with other partners, GOSE plays a key role on our external 'ChangingMK' Reference Group by monitoring and challenging our progress and providing insights and learning from other perspectives. Having someone up in Milton Keynes on a regular basis has helped to bolster our capacity and given us a 'critical friend' on the team. It is good to know that GOSE has an informed view of the council, and can provide a bridge with the rest of the government."



The opportunity to work with GOSE on 'voluntary engagement' is proving interesting and valuable.





WHAT NEXT?

The Audit Commission has just finished a period of consultation on how the Comprehensive Performance Assessment should evolve from 2005 onwards. Whatever details emerge, GOSE remains committed to playing its part in making the system a success in the future and thereby helping local councils improve services for their local communities. As Regional Director, Paul Martin, notes: "The South East already enjoys a good standard of governance, and this offers us a great platform to build further improvements. GOSE looks forward to working with local authorities and other partners to continue to release their potential."

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

This is a joint LGA/ODPM programme to support local government improvement which totalled approximately £40 million for 2003/04 with forward commitments. The focus is on developing the corporate capacity of councils, and the programme seeks to strengthen and expand existing initiatives, pilot new models and approaches, and provide seed corn funding for new initiatives.

NATIONAL PROGRAMME

The majority of resources are directed to the national framework of programmes, which are accessible to all councils. This national framework has seven themes:

1. Peer Support
2. Support for Improvement Planning
3. Leadership and Change Management
4. Middle Managers' Development
5. Recruitment and Retention
6. Support for Specific Skills
7. Support for District Councils

Specific assistance is also available to "poor" or "weak" councils.

More information is available from the ODPM website: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_localgov/documents/page/odpm_locgov_609782.pdf

CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE SOUTH EAST

In addition to the national framework, there is also scope to develop regional and pilot projects. These can help demonstrate how local government can drive its own improvement. The focus is on collaborative working and the dissemination of learning to other councils and the national Capacity Building programme. A range of indicative regional priorities for Capacity Building work in the South East has been developed in consultation with the Audit Commission, the IDeA, the Employers Organisation and the Local Government Associations. These include elected member development (including Overview and Scrutiny); partnership working; helping local authorities deal with the aftermath of CPA – improvement planning, commissioning support; a range of strategic service related issues including the implications of the Children's Services agenda; human resources, performance management and organisational development issues; and leadership.

ANY IDEAS?

A handful of projects have already been approved with a few more being developed in the pipeline, but we're always interested in hearing new ideas. If you have a proposal that you think would fit, please contact us to talk it through: Jenny Ashby at jashby.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 07717 513780, John Haward at jhaward.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk ■

Update:

A brief look at the role of the Community Champions Fund and the work of three Champions that epitomise the aim of the Fund in the South East.

CHAMPIONCAUSE

SOUTH EAST CHAMPIONS



ABOVE: Fiona Mactaggart, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Race Equality, Community Policy and Civil Renewal presenting the National Award to Gina Kelly.



ABOVE: Denise Jackson receiving her National Award.

The Community Champions Fund (CCF) was set up by the Department for Education and Skills to help individuals who can inspire others to get more involved in renewing their neighbourhood through participation in community groups.

The aim is to help people build on the skills they already have and to encourage them to help others to become more involved in community regeneration activity. Emphasis is placed on supporting individuals who have already shown leadership in stimulating community activity, or who have ideas for encouraging greater community activity. The fund can also help small-scale community-inspired projects as part of supporting potential champions who have not previously sought funding.

The fund offers small grants (usually up to £2,000) to support a wide range of activities, especially those that help to spread good practice. In the South East, we are particularly aiming to encourage individuals from black and minority ethnic communities and older people (over 50) to get involved in helping their communities.

Emphasis is placed on supporting individuals who have already shown leadership...

The three Champions from the South East whose achievements were recognised at the recent Community Champions National Award Ceremony in Grantham were Denise Jackson from Portsmouth, Gina Kelly from Gravesend and Cathy Tucker from Bishop's Green in Hampshire.

Denise Jackson was awarded a Community Champions Fund grant to set up a new local support group for single parents which attracted 18 parents in the first few months. Denise feels that the project has developed her people skills and boosted her self-esteem. She is also gaining skills in the area of effective group development, funding, and organisation, as well as being more aware of what can be achieved by individuals with determination.

Gina Kelly set up the Oriental Women's Liaison Group (OWL) to help promote the integration of people from different ethnic backgrounds. She was awarded a Community Champions Fund grant to organise an international cultural evening. Several hundred people including the Mayors of both Gravesham and Dartford attended

People:
A chance for you to tell us what you'd like to see on the GOSE website.

GOONLINE



GOSE is working with the eight other Government Offices to plan and launch a new set of regional websites by the end of 2005. As well as being a source of information and news about the South East, GOSE's new website hopes to be able to signpost to national information and, potentially, offer discussion facilities and other e-services.

We are currently consulting with a range of partners in central and local government, with regional partner organisations, and with voluntary and community sector organisations, to obtain views about what our website should look like and what information and services we should provide.

We would like to hear from you if you have suggestions to make about the information you'd like to find on our website and what services you would like available electronically. If you have comments to make you can do so through our website at www.go-se.gov.uk or by contacting our webmaster Beck Kingsnorth (01483 882416) or Rhiannon Williams, Head of Knowledge Management (01483 882895). ■

the event. Gina's enthusiasm and drive are inspirational to others and she is keen to build on the networking she has achieved.

Cathy Tucker helped Bishop's Green, an isolated rural community in Hampshire made up mostly of mainly social housing, to develop a better sense of community. After a successful bid was made to the Fund for equipment and training, Cathy was able to help produce a newsletter which was used to launch a project called 'Stepping Stones'. Cathy gained new skills and reinforced existing ones. The community gained a newsletter to which they could contribute and which represented their concerns.

In 2003-04 we worked with 11 partners and funded 175 Champions, way exceeding our target. More than one third of our Champions were from Black Minority Ethnic communities and one third were aged over 50. In 2004-5 we will be working with eight partners and focusing on Slough, Milton Keynes, Isle of Wight, Gosport, Crawley, Eastbourne, Wycombe, Oxford, Shepway, Thanet, Ashford, Dartford, Gravesham, Medway, Swale and Dover.

If you are aware of any potential Champions in these areas please encourage them to contact Julie Wootton, Regional Community Champions Fund Manager on 01483 882457, e-mail jwootton.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk ■



Update:

Housing provision in the South East remains a top priority, but what is GOSE doing to solve the problem?

HOMEFRONT

MEETING THE REGION'S HOUSING DEMAND

In issue three of this Newsletter, we focused on the fact that the South East faces a crisis of under supply of houses. We had such a response to that article that we thought that you would welcome a progress report.

The basic problem is that, within our Region, demand for housing is increasing while new house building is static. Solving the problem is one of the Prime Minister's top ten priorities.

From our early analysis, we had to conclude that there was no single cause of under delivery that could be diagnosed and put right with a quick fix. But some common themes have emerged since then.



With ten departments represented in GOSE, we are uniquely placed to tackle issues like these across the board, and our Housing Delivery Team is being as proactive as possible in raising concerns and suggesting solutions.

We have had meetings with 23 local authorities since the beginning of the year to discuss how we can work together towards providing more housing. We have identified several actions that GOSE, local authorities and other players, such as government agencies,

Common emerging themes:

- There is a lack of ownership of the problem
- Monitoring of starts and completions is pretty patchy and statistics are of variable reliability
- There is a good deal of anecdote repeated about barriers to provision but hard evidence is much more difficult to come by
- The South East is very congested and getting around on the roads is already difficult in many places and more houses would make that problem worse
- There are some environmental designations that affect large tracts of land – such as the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area that protects birds and affects 13 local authority areas alone
- There are a number of large sites in the South East with the capacity to take 500 dwellings and often a lot more

It is all about maximising housing supply, speeding up processes and overcoming barriers.

can take to facilitate more house building in each of the 23 areas.

What is emerging is the need for GOSE to broker meetings with government agencies, government departments that own land that they don't need anymore, raise common issues with ODPM (such as delays caused by Section 106 planning agreements) and involve English Partnerships if appropriate. Local authorities are being highly co-operative and we hope to make action plans publicly available as soon as they are agreed.

It is all about maximising housing supply, speeding up processes and overcoming barriers. The recently published "Review of Housing Supply" by economist Kate Barker has endorsed that approach and has made a series of recommendations to that end, including: a presumption in favour of granting planning permission that conform to Local Plans, allowing regional plans – the South East Plan in our case – to reflect regional circumstances where departure from national policy can be justified, merging the regional planning and housing bodies, helping with the delivery of large sites through a Planning Advisory Service and ensuring that developers have clear guidance on how best to use the planning system.

Kate Barker revealed that annually, just three new homes are built for every 1,000 people. She has warned: "The current rate of house building is not an option unless we are prepared to accept increasing homelessness, declining affordability and social division... holding back our economic success". By taking action now, we hope that the South East will be in good shape in the future. ■

People:

From couch potatoes to health freaks. Maybe not, but the recently launched plan by Sport England South East may go some way to encouraging us back to a healthy lifestyle.

LAUNCH OF SE PLAN FOR SPORT



MISSION POSSIBLE



The plan urges at least 30 minutes' exercise five times a week, but not necessarily by attending a gym or joining a football team.



Getting millions of southerners off their sofas and into physical exercise is the four-year aim of Sport England South East, which launched a major get-fit campaign on 6th May.

They unveiled their 50-page regional plan – 'Mission Possible – the South East Plan for Sport 2004-2008' – in which they detailed over 100 specific ways to encourage people to take more exercise, in order to head off the Government's prediction that by the year 2010 one in three adults will be officially classified as obese.

The plan urges at least 30 minutes' exercise five times a week, but not necessarily by attending a gym or joining a football team: taking a brisk walk will be sufficient for most unfit people to get back into shape.

Sean Holt, Regional Director of Sport England said although the primary aim is to encourage people to become fitter and healthier, the campaign will also increase the considerable economic benefits that sport and leisure already bring to the South East.

"We hope that getting more people involved in sport and exercise in the region will not only improve their health, but that this in turn will bring many benefits to business. Generally it means that the workforce will be healthier, more motivated, and take fewer days off sick. More specifically it could mean a growth for sports and leisure-related industry."

Sport England has been working in partnership with GOSE and collaborating on a number of projects including developing a regional strategy to increase levels of participation. In welcoming Mission Possible, Paul Martin, GOSE's Regional Director, said "This plan sets out clearly the vital contribution that sport and physical recreation makes to the quality of life in the south east. It provides a framework for further collaboration with our colleagues in Sport England, other regional bodies and local authorities in relation to some core areas of our work. These include, for example, children and young people's issues; tackling social exclusion particularly amongst high priority groups such as people with disabilities and black and minority ethnic populations; addressing health inequalities; community safety initiatives and ensuring the provision of adequate facilities both within and beyond the key growth areas in the region."

Sport England is also to work with the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) to ensure sport is a clear element of the Regional Economic Strategy. ■

The plan includes:

- Encouraging employers to improve the health of their staff, by providing bicycle storage and showers, and rewarding employees who set up and run sports clubs at work;
- Urging local authorities to provide more recreational opportunities such as free skateboard parks
- Training healthcare providers to offer advice on physical activity, and action plans on obesity especially among young people;
- Working with partners to deliver a co-ordinated training programme to develop coaches, volunteers and administrators
- Establishing a database of clubs and contacts for all sports in the region



Further information

For more information please contact Chris Minton on 0118 9465209 or at chris.mintonssportengland.org

Update:

Is the car the most commonly used means of getting to work in the region or do more people travel by train? How does public transport stack up against private transport? Census 2001 provides us with a new picture of how those who live in the South East travel to work, and how far they travel.

SEFACTS

HOW DO WE GET TO WORK IN THE SOUTH EAST?

Mode of Travel

Chart 1 shows the distribution of the primary mode of transport of SE residents who travel to work (ie after excluding those who work at home – around 10% of total employees and self-employed)

This shows over two thirds (67%) of those residents of the South East who travel to work do so as the driver of a car or van. A further 7% travel as a passenger in a car or van. 5% travel by bus and a further 3% by train. In total only 8% travel by public transport, compared to 92% travelling by private transport. While the categories used in the 1991 census do not precisely match those used in 2001, there are some areas where a direct comparison is possible. These show that the proportion of car users has risen by 5 percentage points between the two censuses, while that for passengers has remained broadly constant, and that for train users has fallen by 2 percentage points. In the same

Map 1

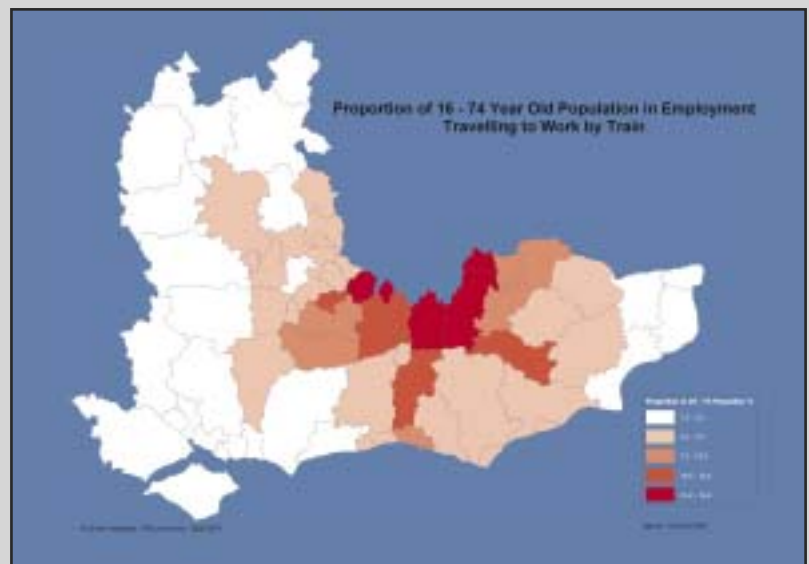


Chart 1

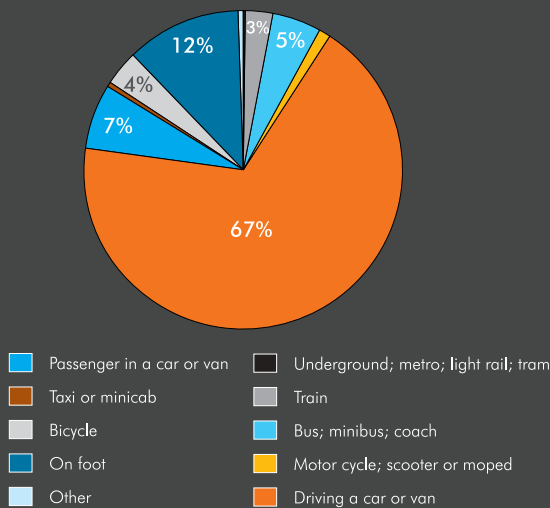
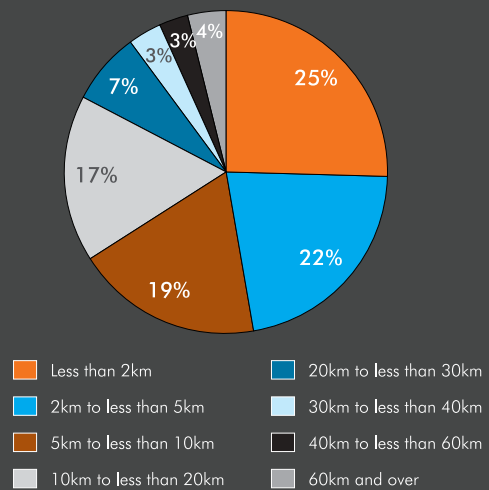


Chart 2





period the proportion working mainly at or from home has doubled from 5% to 10%.

As map 1 shows, train usage is predominantly in the area immediately adjacent to London.

Distance travelled

Chart 2 shows the distance travelled to work by South East Residents. More precisely this is the distance between the home and workplace, so the actual distance travelled may be greater if for example children are being delivered to school in the same journey.

A quarter of SE Residents travel less than 2 kilometres to their place of work, and almost a half (47%) travel less than 5 km. 10% of residents travel 30km or more to work. This compares to the 1991 position, where 28% of residents travelled less than 2km, 48% travelled less than 5km and 10% travelled more than 30km. ■



Further information

SE facts provided by Tony Daniels, Regional Intelligence Unit, GOSE. You can contact Tony on 01483 882273 or by e-mail at tdaniels.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk.



Feature:

A look at the work of SERAF and its role in delivering the Government's rural agenda for the region.

RURAL AFFAIRS

SOUTH EAST RURAL AFFAIRS FORUM



The Rural White Paper announced the Government's intention to establish Regional Rural Sounding Boards (now known as the Rural Affairs Forum) to bring together rural stakeholders within the region. These will inform and monitor the regional and local delivery of policy in rural areas. The South East Rural Affairs Forum (SERAF) brings together these rural stakeholders within the South East.

SERAF provides rural areas with an opportunity to communicate more directly with Ministers. It provides an opportunity to reconcile views between different interests and promote a partnership approach across different sectors within the region. It reflects the National Rural Affairs Forum for England (RAFE) and other regional forums, but is varied to recognise the potential contribution of existing organisations and networks within the Region.

The forum has a membership of up to 30 people, with an independent Chair. The membership aims to be as inclusive as possible with several organisations representing subject areas such as; Farming, Countryside Environment and Recreation, Rural Economy and Employment, Rural Communities and Services, Cultural Interests, Academic and Training and Local, Regional and Central Government.

All members are expected to take an integrated view of rural interests, across social, economic and environmental perspectives. There are also County Rural Affairs forums throughout the South East who are invited to attend the SERAF meetings and are circulated the minutes to each meeting. The County Forum representatives also meet with GOSE on a 6 monthly basis. The link between GOSE and SERAF ensures a two-way flow of information on rural issues to and from those people living in rural areas.

Since SERAF was first established in 2002 members have considered a range of topics. These include - thinking rural when making policies; providing affordable homes in rural areas; a Regional Delivery Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food; a Rural Delivery review; Common Agricultural Policy reform; supply and distribution of local food products; climate change and its effect on agriculture. Other issues have been the consideration of young people in rural areas; delivering local transport solutions; Area

Investment Frameworks and the South East England Forestry Framework.

SERAF has also officially commented on rural service standards; the rural revival inquiry; SEERA renewable energy strategy; regional tourism strategy; modernising Rural Delivery review; South East England Regional Assembly Rural Select committee and the mid-term review of CAP reform

Each regional rural affairs forum is represented on the RAFF. This gives SERAF the opportunity to comment on regional implications of national/ European strategy. SERAF is also represented on sub groups established by RAFF and have set up their own task and finish sub groups on the following subjects;

- Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy board (ongoing)
- Modernising Rural Delivery (paper submitted to Defra group disbanded)
- Intend to set up a sub group on CAP reform in the near future.

SERAF hold a conference every 18 months.



SERAF provides rural areas with an opportunity to communicate more directly with Ministers.



The next conference is being held on 7 September 2004 at Sandown Park. The agenda will look at Modernising Rural Delivery and Common Agricultural policy reform as well as other current rural issues.

Alison Parker, GOSE's Director for European, Environment and Culture, said "SERAF has been meeting for two years and is proving to be an excellent focus for rural debate for the Region. We are all looking forward very much to the conference in September. That will be an opportunity for many more people who are interested in rural affairs in the South East, to join in and make their views known." ■



Further information

To find out more about the conference or SERAF in general please contact Julie Price, SERAF secretariat, 01483 882921. Alternatively copies of the minutes for each meeting are held on the GOSE website.



Feature:

GOSE recently staged a conference to increase awareness and understanding regarding the poor state of some of the region's social housing and its link to ill health.

HOUSING FOR HEALTH

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS IN SURREY AND SUSSEX

The Communities Plan, launched by the Deputy Prime Minister in February 2003 set out a long term programme of delivering thriving and sustainable communities in both urban and rural areas. The plan included a programme to ensure that all social housing is brought up to a decent standard by 2010, alongside targeted action to improve conditions for vulnerable people in private housing.

Statistics show that poor housing conditions have a direct bearing on a person's health, these can range from an impact on a person's mental health, through to the levels of accidents experienced and the occurrence of infectious and chronic diseases.

To increase awareness and understanding of this growing agenda, GOSE brought together professionals from housing, and from health and social care organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors from across Surrey, East and West Sussex. This provided an opportunity to share knowledge across many of the strands of work on housing and to link this with health.

The conference highlighted how, even in this affluent area there are pockets of real housing deprivation. Too many people in the South East live in homes with no central heating, some of them with limiting long-term illnesses – so they are doubly disadvantaged.

Home improvement agencies across the country provide a vital community service by helping people to stay living independently in their own home. Within the Moat Housing Group Care & Repair teams, 12 home improvement agencies are operated in 14 local authority areas in parts of Kent, Sussex and Essex. On average each year, they help around 8,000 people.

Janet Geering, Project Manager from Moat Housing Group, reflected on the link between Healthy Homes and Healthier lives and

Statistics show that poor housing conditions have a direct bearing on a person's health.



illustrated how the work of Home Improvement Agencies (HIA's) can help statutory bodies meet their operational objectives and their joint goals. Janet commented, "There is a need for improved partnership working. In 2001/02 a staggering £2 million was spent in the Bexhill and Rother areas on hip, wrist and vertebral fractures caused by preventable accidents (falls)."

The way forward

Opportunities for HIA's are many and the savings to the public purse can easily be seen. Falls are a major cause of death and disability in older people. The cost of providing hospital care for an elderly person based on an average of 20 bed days is £18,000. But the cost of administering and fitting a grab rail that helps prevent a fall is only £300.

Fuel Poverty is another concern. Adur, Arun and Worthing Primary Care Trust have linked fuel poverty initiatives with its flu vaccination campaign to increase coverage and uptake of energy efficient grants through association with medical intervention. Evidence shows that people are more likely to comply with an intervention if it is recommended by a doctor.

The conference demonstrated that joined up action is required and that it is happening across Surrey and Sussex so far with some great results. The challenge now is to continue to maintain this success and to keep the momentum going. ■



ABOVE/TOP: Poor housing is unsafe and over 60% of all fatal domestic accidents occur to people aged 60 and over. The most common reason for unfitness is the lack of facilities for food preparation.

Update:

Traffic congestion is a major issue for residents of Surrey, but the opening of a new facility in Leatherhead should help relieve the problem.

FREEFLOWING

TRANSPORT MINISTER OPENS NEW CENTRE

Transport Minister Tony McNulty MP officially opened Surrey's new Network Management and Information Centre (NMIC) in Leatherhead on 24 March.

Opening the state of the art facility for monitoring and managing traffic on Surrey's roads Tony McNulty said 'This excellent and unique centre will help relieve traffic congestion in Surrey. People need quality real-time information and this centre will provide up-to-date information on travel conditions and services using the latest technology'.

Traffic congestion is a major issue in Surrey with over one million residents, high car ownership and 40% fewer roads compared with the national average.

The million pound plus investment in the NMIC will provide reliable travel information that can be exchanged between different parties. The NMIC controls the traffic at major road junctions and automatically monitors traffic flows in real-time. Traffic signal operations

People need quality real-time information and this centre will provide up-to-date information..



internet website, <http://www.acislive.com/pages/busnet.asp?SysID=13>

Future developments will include providing transport information to the public via WAP phone (with internet access), roadside message signs, on-board vehicle information systems and kiosks in public areas.

Andy Roberts, GOSEs Director of Transport said "The creation of the Centre is a good example of how forward looking councils use their Local Transport Plan funding, alongside other resources, to address issues for local people such as congestion". Further LTP funds will be used in the next five years on a planned investment programme in Intelligent Transportation Systems that will further increase Surrey's traffic management capability and enable the County to play a full role in Regional and National initiatives. ■



can be phased to match prevailing conditions and give priority to late running buses. Images captured on CCTV cameras at critical road junctions are also used to assess conditions.

In addition the centre is the source for real-time bus information. Buses fitted with satellite tracking devices can be monitored and the expected time of arrival sent to electronic indicator boards at bus stops. This information is also available on the Surrey County Council



ABOVE: Tony McNulty at the launch of the new facility with Chairman Sheila Gruselle (left) and Helyn Clack (right).

ABOVE LEFT: One of the electronic bus stop information screens.



Further information

For further information please contact Peter Speroni at Surrey County Council on 020 8541 7148 or by e-mail: peter.speroni@surreycc.gov.uk

Feature:

Responding to feedback from the Partner Satisfaction Survey regarding effective leadership, GOSE recently invited four very different, but equally inspirational guest speakers.

30

RELEASING POTENTIAL

RAISING THE PROFILE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF LEADERSHIP IN GOSE

'In many ways the highlight of the leadership initiative has been the guest speakers...'

One of GOSE's business priorities is to raise the profile and effectiveness of its leadership skills by releasing the potential of its staff. The last few months have seen a number of leadership initiatives launched.

Peter Craggs, GOSE Director of Corporate Management said, 'this has been developed as a result of the feedback from the Partner Satisfaction Survey that was undertaken on our behalf by MORI last year. We have responded to the comments from our partners by putting a leadership framework together for our staff, including guest speakers, formal training courses, informal development opportunities, seminars and increased involvement with Common Purpose and the Whitehall in Industry Group'.

'In many ways the highlight of the leadership initiative has been the guest speakers brought into Bridge House to give their personal slant on what qualities and approaches go to make a good leader. All of them have been inspirational in different ways, and have proved that there is no single solution to effective leadership, but many ways in which organisations and individuals can release their own potential and work towards improving leadership qualities.'

THE SPEAKERS

Ken Hames

Ken served in the British Forces for almost 30 years and is one of the few elite British Officers to have worn the red beret of the parachute brigade, the green beret of the Royal Marines and the sand beret of the Special Air Service. Ken focused on leadership attitude, motivation and teamwork and demonstrated how seemingly insurmountable challenges can be overcome with the right approach, teamwork and leadership. ■

Michael McGrath

Michael's quest, with the support of his team, to conquer both North and South Poles was realised in January 2004 when he successfully completed an expedition to the South Pole. This has made him the first disabled person - he suffers from Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy - in the world to achieve this feat. Michael is an inspirational leader, and his focus was on his ability rather than his disability and in recognising the importance of "team" as opposed to "self" in achieving a positive outcome in challenging circumstances.

Beverley Alimo-Metcalfe

Beverley has actively researched the nature of leadership qualities and skills and was passionate about the importance of transformational leadership for improving performance within organisations. Her career is broad ranging, spanning work with the NHS, Local Government and more recently with I&DeA programmes on Top Managers and Women's Leadership.

Rene Carayol

Rene is a truly charismatic leader, and the focus during his entertaining and lively presentation was on business transformation, leadership and corporate strategy, bound together with a compelling philosophy. He has become increasingly involved in several areas of media work, including presenting a critically acclaimed film for Channel 4 on the formidable challenges facing Sir John Stevens, Head of the Metropolitan Police.

Further information

For further information on any aspects of the leadership initiatives being taken forward by GOSE please contact Nicola Peacock on 01483 8822267 or by e-mail: npeacock.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk



ABOVE: Two of our guest speakers, Beverley Alimo-Metcalfe and Rene Carayol.

Feature:

SEE-iN recently launched a new interactive mapping facility on its website that will enable visitors to analyse regional data more effectively.

ALL MAPPED OUT



SEE-IN WEBSITE

The South East England Intelligence Network, (SEE-iN), is to have a new interactive mapping facility for their regional intelligence portal www.see-in.co.uk.

The new system allows users to view maps related to strategic issues in the region. The technology of interactive web mapping facilities not only provides a useful navigational tool, but can also be used to overlay maps as a valuable resource in analytical processes.

Based upon the existing mapping tools currently available on the South East England Regional Assembly website, SEE-iN plans to update the maps available to include other regional issues.

SEE-iN's Regional Intelligence Co-ordinator, Manfai Tang, explains, "The mapping function will allow users to vary the detail using the zoom function. The system will incorporate various maps illustrating policy issues within the South East region, such as areas of woodland, main transport routes or waste facilities in the South East.

SEE-iN aims to encourage joint working between organisations in the South East through the sharing of data and intelligence through a single portal. ■



Further information

For further information and to register visit www.see-in.co.uk

Feature:

An apology from the Editor and your views on the newsletter.



I would like to apologise for an error that appeared in the last issue of the partners' newsletter. In the Community Change item the incorrect wording '*Is/e of White*' escaped our proof checking process. This should of course read '*Is/e of Wight*'.

Lesley Devonport
Editor

WHAT YOU THINK...

In Issue 4 we asked for readers' views on GO South East and suggestions for future features.

Overall you think we offer a good balance of topics and a "useful insight into the region." You would like us to include more features and news items about health, and about regeneration and housing. You would like to see more about the region's voluntary and community sector.

There were requests for more features about specific locations in the South East and about issues affecting sub-regions, Local Authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships.

Two messages came across very strongly – you would like regular synopses of policy issues affecting the region (along the lines of the feature on changes to the planning system in Issue 4) and a stronger focus on good practice and successes that can be shared across the region.

We will include as many features as possible in response to these requests in future issues.

We will also make some changes to the design of the magazine in response to readers' suggestions – including making more use of summaries of key points in longer features. ■



Making the difference

Government Office for the South East represents central government in the South East Region. In partnership with key stakeholders it's aim is to develop sustainable regional prosperity. GOSE represents the voice and focus and the join up ten central Departmental agendas operating within the South East covering skills, transport, further education, business, health, regeneration, crime and housing agendas amongst others.

Led by GOSE's Regional Director – Paul Martin, the Management Board has nine Director's and one Non-Executive Director.

GOSE is looking to enhance the contribution made by Non-Executive Director's to its Management Board discussions and is currently seeking to appoint a second Non-Executive Director.

Applicants are expected to have substantial experience from working in either a business, voluntary or education environment in a senior capacity. They must understand, and be committed to, the aim of developing sustainable regional prosperity. Appointment will be made on merit, but applications are particularly welcome from women, minority ethnic and disabled candidates who are currently underrepresented at this level.

Anticipated commitment will be approximately 1 day per month on a voluntary unpaid basis and bi-annual Board Policy events. (Travel and subsistence will be refunded)



Further information

If you are interested in applying for this post please contact Sue Dossetter for further information email suedossetter@gose.go-regions.gov.uk or telephone 01483 882334. Closing date for applications is Friday July 30th 2004.

